

NARS NEWS

The Northwest Amateur Radio Society

Houston, Texas

April 2003

April Meeting – HMNS Burke Baker Planetarium

The April meeting will be held at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Burke Baker Planetarium. NARS member Pat Reiff KD5IZK will host this special meeting. We are indeed fortunate that Dr Reiff is willing and able to schedule this exclusive facility for a NARS meeting through her association with Rice University as Professor of Physics & Astronomy, and Director of the Rice Space Institute. Pat would also like to thank Dr Carolyn Sumners, Director of Astronomy and Physics, HMNS.

The address is: The Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Drive, Houston, TX 77030. The phone is: (713) 639-4629.

The schedule for Friday, April 18 is as follows:

6:00 PM "Force 5"

6:30 PM "Night of the Titanic"

7:00 PM NARS Meet and Greet

7:30 PM NARS Meeting

After the meeting, there may be another showing of "Night of the Titanic"

Visit the HMNS web site for directions. Go to <http://www.hmns.org/default.asp> and click the "Getting Here" link at the top of the home page.

This ought to be a really great meeting! Thanks to Dr. Pat for hosting this!

Danny Richards N5BE

Annual Picnic 2003

Date: Saturday, April 26

Time: 11:00AM until 4:00PM

Location: 24415 Deep Meadow, Tomball – see map below

Food: BBQ and side dishes from Rib Tickler, home made rolls and desserts

Cost: \$6.00 per person

Bring your own chairs and drinks.

Come join the NARS crowd for good eats, games and plenty of eyeball QSO's. Horseback rides will be available for kids and daring adults. There may even be a bit of music entertainment from the NARS Pickers.

Tables will be rented. H. O. Townsend K5CX will pick them up in his truck. Thanks H. O.

Another volunteer is needed to pick up the BBQ from Rib Tickler. We also need horseshoes, washers and badminton. Do you have one of these? If so, please call 281-351-7683. Thanks.

A dessert or two will be made in the WD5DXL kitchen. Do you have a favorite dessert (hint – chocolate chip cookies – yum) to show off? If so, bring it along. I am sure it will be appreciated and you will receive plenty of comments and critique.

Mark your calendar now for this fun, informal get-together.

Keith Dutson WD5DXL
keith@dutson.net
281-351-7683

Important Dates

Friday, Apr 18, 6:00 PM – General Membership meeting, Burke Baker Planetarium

Saturday, Apr 26, 8:30 AM – VE License Exam Session, Tomball Community Center, S. Cherry & Market streets (just South of Main).

Saturday, Apr 26, 11:00 AM – Annual NARS Picnic, 24415 Deep Meadow, Tomball

Tuesday, Apr 29, 7:30 PM – Board of Directors meeting, Terra Nova Clubhouse, 5200 Woodville.

Contests

Apr 19–20 Michigan QSO Party, Ontario QSO Party

Apr 26–27 SP RTTY DX, Helvetia, Florida QSO Party

May 3–4 ARI International DX

May 10–11 CQ-M DX

May 17–18 Baltic DX

May 24–25 CQ WW WPX CW

Wednesday Lunch Bunch

Apr 16 Brown Sugar's BBQ

Apr 23 Red Lobster

Apr 30 Casa Imperial Mexican

May 7 Strack Farms

May 14 Pepperchino

Wednesday Lunch Bunch – West

Apr 16 Fuddrucker's

Apr 23 Puma Mexican

Apr 30 Jason's Deli

May 7 Luther's BBQ

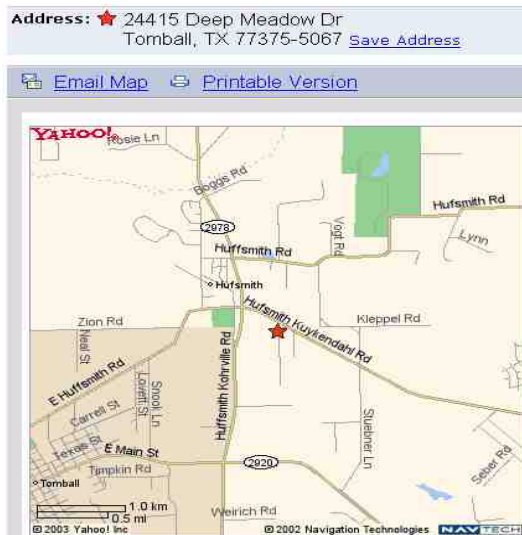
May 14 Skeeter's

Monday "Tail Draggers" Lunch Bunch

12:00 Noon Aviator's Grill, Hooks Airport

Notice: NARS membership dues are \$20 per year, renewable on anniversary of last year's full payment.

Deadline for articles to appear in the next issue is the last day of this month.



BREAKFAST

at Victors

4710 W FM 1960

Saturdays

7:30 AM

President's Corner

April 2003

Greetings to all Narsians. Well, Mother Nature has blessed us with another beautiful spring season. This is the time of year we all start our outdoor projects, such as needed antenna repairs or tower projects. Bear in mind that safety should be your first and foremost concern. If you have such a project please make sure you have plenty of help and the proper safety equipment to complete the task.

As we all know April in South Texas can sometimes be a wet and stormy time of the year. One of our abilities as Amateurs is to provide help in such situations. Lets make a mental note of the 146.840 repeater. This repeater is dedicated to Weather Service and can be a great asset for all.

This month is a very busy month for NARS members; we have a great meeting with Dr. Pat Reiff at the Planetarium. I personally am looking forward to this special meeting. Dr. Pat has always given a spectacular show; the fact that this one is going to be at the Planetarium even makes for more excitement. Come out and bring the family and friends – this is for everyone.

Also we have a NARS picnic at Keith Dutson's house this month on Saturday April 26th. Be sure and read the details in this month's newsletter. I was unable to participate in the last get-together that Keith had but heard it was a real hoot. This is one you need to mark on the calendar not to miss.

I would like to thank Mike Wheat for his excellent and informative presentation on cell phone technology. It goes to show you how advanced the technology is and how we take it for granted.

I also would like to thank the Ham and Sheez group and our members for their diligence in supporting our troops overseas.

Most of all let's remember our loved ones and friends whom are fighting for freedom overseas. Not only can we support them in donations but in prayer also.

*Gregg Erlenbusch
W5IDX*

Easter Baskets for the Families of Fort Sam Houston

When the Ham and "Sheez" group made an announcement at the March NARS meeting about supporting the troops involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom, we had no idea of the overwhelming support that we would receive. An idea that literally started in a string of email blossomed into a truly special event for NARS and Ham and "Sheez". And, the most amazing part is the journey from an idea to one hundred Easter baskets took only ten days!

The day after the March NARS meeting, our idea was almost stifled when we learned that heightened security measures were limiting the ability to send items directly to the troops. Rather than believe that there were no options, we continued to research possibilities. Schalee Lodge decided to contact the local military bases directly and called Fort Sam Houston. She spoke with the fort's chaplain, who was absolutely delighted that she had called. He indicated that there were ways to ensure items were sent to the troops; however, he suggested a more immediate, local need. This Easter holiday will be the first that many families of Fort Sam Houston will be separated from loved ones serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He recommended that we consider supporting the families. Thanks to Schalee's initiative to contact Fort Sam Houston, our focus was redirected toward putting together Easter baskets for the families.

After the list of items for the baskets was approved by a contact at Fort Sam Houston, NARS and Ham and "Sheez" members were asked to donate some of the items and to help put the baskets together. To say the response was overwhelming would be an incredible understatement. The pictures in this newsletter cannot do justice to the support received.

Continued on page 3

Public Service Events *Your Radio Skills Are Needed*

Plan to help with one or more of the upcoming events in 2003.

Events officially sponsored by NARS include March of Dimes WalkAmerica (April), Buffalo Bayou Regatta (May), SIRE Ride-A-Thon (October) and Sunmart Texas Trails Run (December).

VE Session Results

At the NARS VE Test Session held March 22, 2003 there were two candidates. The results were two new Technicians. Elements administered totaled two with two passed. This is a repeat of last month with 100% success rate!

The VE's were Walter Holmes K5WH, Bob Walworth N5ET, Norm Covey K5OS, Jim Kirk KJ5X, Paul Frantz W5PF, Steve Niles N5EN, and Keith Dutson WD5DXL.

Thanks to all of the VE's for their help.

The next NARS VE Test session will be held on April 26, 2003. See ya there.

*Walter Hock KK5LO
NARS VE Session Manager*

Ham and "Sheez" News

March Update:

March was certainly a busy month for our group! Rather than the traditional one event each month, we decided to add to the fun and go for two. Our first outing was to the Houston Rodeo Livestock Show and Rodeo. We went on the last day of the rodeo and saw "Alabama" perform. The seats were definitely at a very high altitude in the Reliant Stadium – in fact, the air seemed a little thin. However, the show was great and the company even better! The second outing of the month was a shopping trip to San Marcos. Four of the ladies left early on Saturday the 29th, spent the day at the outlet malls, stayed in San Marcos on Saturday evening, and returned early Sunday. Several bargains were found by the expert shoppers, and a great time was had by all. Many thanks go to Carol Fitzgerald for arranging the weekend!

Our March meeting involved several members of NARS and other volunteers who helped put together one hundred Easter baskets for the families at Fort Sam Houston. Be sure to read the

separate article in this newsletter about the Easter baskets.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities:

The April outing will be on Saturday the 12th when a group of us will attend a class at the Arbor Gate nursery in Tomball. The class is the 3rd Annual Herb Talk and Luncheon. It should be a very interesting and fun day. And, guys, we'll warn you now that there is a very strong probability that herbs, flowers, and other plants will be purchased while we are there! After all, we'll have to put into practice the gardening tips that we learn.

Our April meeting will be on Monday the 28th at the Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church. We will be working on the items that will be sent to the troops involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom. More information on how you can help our efforts will be communicated shortly. We will also be discussing themes for the meetings and outings for the next few months. Please be sure to join us!

Monthly Ham Recipe:

Ham and Apple Rollers Appetizers from Light Cooking

4 – 6 inch flour tortillas
4 ounces Neufchatel cheese, softened
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded nonfat cheddar cheese
3 ounces thinly sliced ham
Finely chopped apple

Spread each tortilla evenly with one ounce of Neufchatel cheese. Sprinkle with cheddar cheese. Top each tortilla with about 2 tablespoons of finely chopped apple and 2 slices of ham. Roll up tortillas and trim ends. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Cut rollers crosswise in half or diagonally into 1-inch pieces. Yield: Eight servings

Enjoy!

*Best regards,
Laurie Meier – N1YXU
936-271-1096
nlyxu@arrl.org*

Easter Baskets for the Families of Fort Sam Houston *continued from page 2*

Several local merchants donated items without any request for recognition. Other local merchants gave significant discounts on items without question. One individual gave over 100 beanie babies (two huge boxes completely full). In fact, merchants in San Marcos also supported our efforts by discounting items purchased for the baskets.



Several NARS members, Ham and "Sheez" members, and friends of the club donated many items and their time to assemble the baskets. Also, thanks to your generosity, we collected over \$70 at the March NARS meeting. The best testament to the support was the response of many folks who came on Monday night the 31st to help assemble the baskets – their mouths dropped open at the sight of all the items that were staged

on the tables to be put into the Easter baskets!



Many of us had visions of not getting the last basket wrapped until late in the evening. We were incredibly wrong in our estimations. With the help of about 30 people, one hundred (very full) Easter baskets were filled, wrapped, and decorated in an hour and a half! You'll see from the pictures that we had a very efficient assembly line and process to complete the baskets. Also, notice the genuine smiles on everyone's face. It was a truly special event for all!



Although the first part of the journey is complete, the story is not over. On Wednesday, April 9, several folks will be traveling to Fort Sam Houston to deliver the baskets. We will be greeted by several personnel from the fort. In fact, the delivery of the baskets has become a true event in itself. We will give you an update to complete the story!

Many thanks to you for your tremendous support! Without your help, the Easter baskets could not have been made. Thank you!

*Best regards,
The ladies of Ham and "Sheez"*

DX News

“For All the NARS DX News Fit to Print”

The good news is this is NOT April 1st. The month of March is now behind us and many have some decent DX to report. The first half of the month suffered with the SFI going below 100, but the month ended with the SFI above 155 and in time for the WPX contest.

The first report I got was during the low SFI period from a very excited N5AOK. She snagged Ducie on 10M and then turned around and got HH4/K9MDO, Haiti. Then she continued with 6D2YFM, NARS our guys in Mexico, 3 bands – that was fun. That was followed by VK2CZ – Australia; C53CW – The Gambia and A35WE – Tonga. That brings her country count up to five more and she has 53 in the log. She has now set her sights on DXCC. Knowing what she did when she took on the Texas QSO Party, the DXCC certificate can't be far away. I think we will be hearing much more from Anita in this column. For one I'm going to pay attention to her operation; who knows what I can learn?

Al, W5ADF, says the month was pretty dismal, but look what he worked. The new ones this month are: EA9PY, Ceuta Mellinia, on 15M; A45WD, Oman, on 15M; J5UCW, Guinea-Bissau, on 12M; ST2CF, Sudan, on 20M and 15M; VP6DIA, Ducie Island, on 15, 12 and 10M and I show up in online log for all. "Funny thing about Ducie Is. for me was that I worked the original VP6DI in March of 02 on 15M and submitted the card in Sept of 02. The DXCC folks at ARRL gave me a band credit for 15M contact for Pitcairn which I never submitted. The awards listing I received back in Dec. 02 showed VP6 as both Pitcairn and Ducie which was strange . . . I think this was at the time the League had the server crash and they must have gone back to an old database. Will re-submit; I hope no one else had the problem. The cards received this month were: 5R8FU, Madagascar; EA9PY, Ceuta Mellinia; CY0MM, Sable Is. That makes my confirmed on Phone 193; sorry I didn't make 200 this month." If you keep this pace Al the 200th country will be in the bag by June. Please keep us posted.

Bruce, N1LN, reports another month of good "band countries." He has been trying to get 160 and 80 meter countries in the log before summer gets here. It looks like he did get a bunch of the work out of the way as he has this list to report: 3D2MN – Fiji – 30CW; 9L1BTB – Sierra Leone – 160 CW; BA4RF – China – 80 CW; DU9/N0NM – Philippines – 80 CW; ST2CF – Sudan – 20SSB, 15SSB; STORY – Sudan – 160CW,

80CW, 40CW & SSB, 30CW, 20SSB, 17CW, 15CW, 12SSB; SV3RF – Greece – 160CW; T31MY – C. Kiribati – 160CW, 40 SSB; TI3KAC – Costa Rica – 75SSB; VP6DIA – Ducie – 30CW, 17CW. I think there are many readers out there who wish they had Bruce's beverage antennas. That is an impressive take for the month.

Cal, WF5W, reporting from the white house has a little more than just DX on his mind this month. Cal reports getting STORY on 40 CW & 80 CW. I heard STORY on 160 but too big a pileup for my 800 watts. In addition, he confirmed A35XM, M05DX, SP4R, T31MY, 9Y4/DL14DF and CY0MM. The best part of the month, according to Cal, was a call from Ten Tec saying the Orion is on the way and should be here April 1 (hope that's not a joke from them). I think Cal spent a lot of time checking out his mail box after that phone call. Cal, next month maybe you can give us an opinion of your new radio as well as the new DX you got with it.

Lee Kinard, K5AVY, had a pretty good month. New stations worked: 9A4X, V44NK, EA1DDO, EA8BH, VP5B, PJ2T, WP3R, ZP5MAL, KH6RR, TO1A, EA1DLU, KH7X, HC2FN, CO2TK, LU1FF, VP6DIA (DUCIE IS.), HH4/N2WB, UA9ORQ, J69MV, KO8HIO (Special Event OHIO BICENTENNIAL), V31MX, UN9L, HU1M, RA0FU, D44TD. New QSL cards: KM1CC, WP3R, KH7X and TI5/KD3TB. I actually documented my DX QSLs and have a total of 20 now! Wow! Just think, in another 5 years at this rate I may actually have 100! They are: Kuwait, Chile, Germany, France, Martinique, Galapagos Is., Grenada, US (whoopee), Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Czech Rep., Aruba, St. Maarten, Costa Rica, Canada, Australia, Montserrat, Caicos Is., Mexico (another Whoopee), and New Zealand. I love contacting New Zealand. W5LM (SK) and I used to contact NZ on 100 watt 10 meter AM phone in the late 50s and he really got me interested in HAM radio. Thanks Jess!! W5LM is now the call for the Temple ARC in Temple, TX. You can read about Jess Coleman at: <http://www.tarc.org/> under club history. Lee thanks for the fine report and now that you are really active I don't think we will have to wait 5 years to see a DXCC certificate on your shack wall.

Here is what happened at W5PF, Paul. Best DX, 9N7YJ on 20cw for number 321 worked. STORY on several bands including 40cw. Also several new IOTA's. Best QSL's, CY0MM on all bands from 10

to 160 for number 320 confirmed. D4B on 5 bands arrived direct in less than a month after a request via email. Al did not want a card, SASE or GS! Here is a copy of a letter forwarded to me by N5DC from Monk Apollo that might be of interest.

From:
SV2ASP/A
Kostas Karzis
I Moni Docheiariou
GR-63087 Dafni Ag Orous
Mount Athos

Dear Friends,
I would like to demand your help to a problem that I confront. Recently, in the new regulation that made the Ministry, because the men that work there don't know that Mount Athos is a special DXCC-country, give the "SY" as a special call sign to everyone who wants it. So there is a confusion to the amateur radio world, who believe that those who use this call sign are from Mount Athos. Many Greek amateurs sayed their views to the Ministry, but they ignored them. I would be grateful if you send a message to the Ministry (Email: yme@otenet.gr) asking them to stop issuing the "SY" as a special prefix, and give it exclusively to Mount Athos, the "Garden of Virgin Mary. I send you my best wishes.

God Bless You.
Monk Apollo — SV2ASP/A – 73"

From the letter it seems there could be some kind of a problem developing in Greece. Many of us still need Mount Athos and should follow these developments.

Colin, KU5B ex-KD5TMF, reports lots going on here in the shack. From what he submitted I think he is right about a lot going on. Here is his list: S51CK on 20 SSB; V31ME on 20 SSB; 2nd JA = JAINUT 20 CW; LY1TR 20 SSB; VP6DIA 10 SSB; 3B8FG 20 CW; HH4/N2WB 20 SSB; 3XY1L 20 SSB; TG9NX 20 SSB; ZF2AH 30, 12, 17 CW; J37LR 20 CW; ZP6/CX6VM 20 SSB; STORY 17 CW; A35XM 12 CW; C53CW 20 SSB; YS1AE 20 SSB, (14 yr old ham); all new countries! Only new cards were for WAS but no new country cards yet! WPX contest was a blast. Set up in the woods with a little dipole and made 150 Q's in a few hours. STORY was a hard one to get but finally made it in CW. Now 25 states confirmed. Half way there!! From this action we know that Colin has spent a good bit of time in the shack lately. I think his mail box will soon begin to fill as well.

Continued on page 5

DX News – Continued from page 4

K5JDB, Jim, was fairly active on the bands in March. Actually, had 84 contacts. I thought that the DX was pretty slow, but I guess it was pretty good, after all. Got really into the mobile DXing during the month. What a blast! Got the Sudan station ST2CF on 15 meters mobile, coming back to work from the West End lunch. Got several envelopes from the Bureau this month, and most were not too impressive. Did, however, get Kazakhstan UN9LM, S. Georgia Island VP8GEO, and Gambia C56R. Still haven't figured how to get on 160 meters. Seems that is where a lot of the activity is right now. Strange. Well, Jim, many of us would like to live out in the country with plenty of space for big beverage antennas. Almost nightly, W5UN can be heard working stations one after another on the low band and I can't hear them. An exchange of email produced the reason why he is doing so well. He just moved to a new 58 acre site and has six (one every 60 degrees) 2400' long beverage antennas to hear with. I'm dreaming, but I think that is as far as it will get on my property.

John, W5PDW, sent this report. Got the K1B QSL for a new one confirmed. I had 111 entries in my log for March, WOW! Worked the Amigos @ 6D2 and some Pesky Texans. Had a good month and a lot of fun. Did manage to snag another new one, ST2CF on 15 meters. We had quite an exchange; he turned my call around every way possible; I think I'm in his log 9 times!! Come join the Tail-draggers Lunch Bunch, Mondays at 1200 noon and brag about your latest DX. The Tail-draggers meet at Hooks airport at high-noon for real and it is good food and good company and John thanks for the invite.

Madison, W5MJ, worked ST0RY on 17 and 40 meters CW from the car in March, no problemo. Going to 7P8 with Frosty K5LBU (World's Oldest Technician) in late July. Plz work 7P9MJ on all the bands; CW only, though I don't know if I will be on 80 and 160. Madison please give us the inside dope on the trip and the band plan/times so we can all work you from a choice DX spot and fill our logs.

Jim, KJ5X, reports that it is not a big month in the KJ5X shack but did get some DX worked including JA7YAA on 40M, 6D2YFM (big time DX) on six bands, KH6BB (battleship Missouri) on 20M, VP6DIA on 17 and 40M, ST0RY on 17 and 20M and ST2CF, A35REA and C53CW on 15M. My rotor controller has gone on the blink but fortunately the beam is stopped at 355 degrees, just about right for 9N and S21. Call. Reward. Now Jim has to be one

of the luckiest hams around to only need two more countries, offer a reward and then have his antenna get stuck pointing in the right direction. If I heard one of those countries, I would work him first and then call Jim to tell him. That way you would really be sure he could do it and you would be sure of something because if he didn't work them there would be no "reward" at all. Play it safe!

H.O. now K5CX reports. "March was a good month under the worse band conditions I've seen in years, yet more lies ahead. Nonetheless, 92 QSO's found their way into the log. Nothing exotic, but good 'ol DX. The 92 Qs represent 50 DX entities and 58 DX prefixes. The band breakdown looks like this: 21 Qs on 10 meters, 8 on 12, 17 on 15, 6 on 17, 13 on 20, 18 on 40, and 9 Qs on 80 meters. Highlights for the month include working the NARS boys in Mexico 6D2YFM; then there was the second group to go to Ducie Island, the Sudan ST0RY group, and the J5 bunch from Guinea-Bissau. The K5CX log: 3G1P, Chile; 6D2YFM, Mexico; 6Y8Z, Jamaica; 8P1A, Barbados; 9S1X, Congo; 9Y4TBG, Trinidad & Tobago; A35WE, Tonga; C56TA, Gambia; CM8WAL and CO8OY, Cuba; D4B, Cape Verde; DJ4PT, Fed. Rep. of Germany; EA8AKN and EA8ZS, Canary Island; EZ8AQ, Turkmenistan; G3WYN and GB4SPD, England; H44MS, Solomon Island; HC2FN and HC8N, Galapagos Island; HH4/K4QD, HH4/K9MDO, HH4/N2WB and HH4/W4WX, Haiti; HK3JJH, Colombia; HP1RIP, Panama; HU1A, El Salvador; J5UDX, Guinea-Bissau; J88DR, St Vincent; JO1DZA, Japan; KH0AC, Mariana Island; KH6VV, KH7X, Hawaii; KP4ATF, Puerto Rico; KT6E/KH3, Johnston Island; L44DX, Argentina; LE3CQ, Norway; OA4O, Peru; OM7M, Slovak Republic; PJ2/WB9Z, Netherland Antilles; RK4FF, European Russia; RN0CT, Asiatic Russia; ST0RY, Sudan; T31MY, Central Kiribati; TG9NX, Guatemala; TI5/AI5P, Costa Rica; UN9L, Kazakhstan; V26P, Antigua/Barbuda; V31LU and V31QQ, Belize; V47KP, St Kitts & Nevis; VK9NS, Norfolk Island; VP5A, Turks & Caicos Islands; VP6DIA, Pitcairn Island; VP9/W6PH, Bermuda; WP2Z, Virgin Islands; WP3R, Puerto Rico; XF2IH, Mexico; XQ3/IZ6BRN, Chile; YV5OHW, Venezuela and ZF2DQ, Cayman Islands."

Here at the KQ5U shack I managed to get two new ones: Sudan, ST0RY, on 20 & 15 CW & SSB and ST2CF on 10 SSB, J5UDX, Guinea-Bissau on 10 SSB. With all the DX contests on this month I played fill in the missing band countries and here

are the highlights. 80 SSB: TO1A, Martinique; 9Y4TBG, Tobago Island; VP5B, Turks & Caicos Island and KH7X, Hawaii. 80 CW produced: PJ5NA, St. Maartin Island; DK1MAX, Germany and S50X, Slovenia. Other band countries were: A35XM, Tonga, 20 CW; D4B, Cape Verdi Island, 10 & 40 SSB; EA8ZS, Canary Islands, 40 SSB; AM3KJ, Spain, 40 SSB and PY0FF, Fernando de Noronha, 40 SSB. Near the end of the month Center Point Energy made a long awaited repair on a pole near the shack and cured some long term RFI. Now I only have two known sources to go. But with each fix I have been able to hear better. I will keep you posted on the progress.

This month the SFI started on a falling note and fell to the mid 90's but near the end of the month the SFI was back up to 155. The wizard at NASA's Space Weather prediction for April is shown below.

27-day Space Weather Outlook Table Issued 2003 Apr 01

UTC Date	Radio Flux 10.7 cm	Planetary A Index	Largest Kp Index
2003 Apr 02	155	15	3
2003 Apr 03	150	12	3
2003 Apr 04	145	10	3
2003 Apr 05	145	10	3
2003 Apr 06	140	12	3
2003 Apr 07	140	10	3
2003 Apr 08	140	12	3
2003 Apr 09	135	15	3
2003 Apr 10	135	20	4
2003 Apr 11	135	20	4
2003 Apr 12	135	20	4
2003 Apr 13	130	20	4
2003 Apr 14	130	25	5
2003 Apr 15	120	15	3
2003 Apr 16	115	20	4
2003 Apr 17	110	20	4
2003 Apr 18	110	10	3
2003 Apr 19	110	20	4
2003 Apr 20	110	10	3
2003 Apr 21	110	10	3
2003 Apr 22	120	10	3
2003 Apr 23	135	25	5
2003 Apr 24	145	25	5
2003 Apr 25	155	25	5
2003 Apr 26	155	25	5
2003 Apr 27	160	25	5
2003 Apr 28	160	20	4

From the NASA Space Weather site I captured another view of where we are in the big scheme of solar cycles. Note this is in terms of sun spot number rather than SFI. The monthly (blue) and monthly smoothed (red) sunspot numbers are shown for the latest four cycles.

Continued on page 6

DX News – Continued from page 5

Some upcoming DX as reported in the media follows:

Till 30/06 ST1MN: Sudan
 23/03–01/07 TU5CD: Ivory Coast * by F5THR
 06/04–14/04 XY4KQ: Chaungtha + AS-???, Myanmar * by DL4KQ
 07/04–21/04 VK9XI: Christmas Island (OC–002) * by VK3OT/VK3SIX
 15/04–27/04 YK1BA: Syria * by N5FF
 19/04–24/04 3D2JX: Mana Island (OC–121), Fiji * by JF6OJX
 19/04–01/05 6W/F5VHQ: Senegal
 21/04–15/05 9N7DX: Nepal * by 4Z4DX
 25/04–09/05 FO0: Marquesas (OC–027) * by I2YSB and others
 26/04–02/05 VK9XC,VK9XE,VK9XK,VK9XY: Christmas (OC–002) * by JAs
 03/05–05/05 JM1PXG/6: Tokara Kuchino–shima (AS–049)
 07/04–21/04 VK9XI: Christmas Island (OC–002) * by Steve,VK3OT, will activate the station
 VK9XI from Apr 7–21. QSL via VK3OT, unfortunately direct only.

06/04–14/04 XY4KQ: Chaungtha + AS-???, Myanmar * by Frank,DL4KQ, will travel to Myanmar from Mar 31 until Apr 17. He got the approval that his call will be XY4KQ and plans to operate in SSB/CW on 80–10m. He also has the possibility to visit an island in the Mon Region Group for the first time.

Note there is a reward out for 9N's by KJ5X and someone needs to collect it.

During some play time this month, I was doing "what if" with a gray line program. I was really surprised to find that there are

only two countries that show up between now and the end of May. They are Russia and India. The implication here is that the low bands will not have much action on the terminator. It will be interesting to see how the stations working the low bands fair

during the next two months. My 80–meter country count doesn't need this kind of help.

*Until next month may the DX be with you.
 73 Terry, KQ5U*

NARS LOGO Shirts



W5NC

Houston, Texas

Northwest Amateur Radio Society

The new LOGO has been selected and now it is time to order your new shirt. If you were at the last club meeting you had the opportunity to see some examples – and they look great. The LOGO is on the front–left (over the pocket on the men's shirts, the women's don't have pockets), and you can have your name and call sign on the right–front. If you would like to order a shirt simply send an email or snail mail to me (Bruce – N1LN) with the following information.

Information:

- > Name
- > Phone#
- > Email address
- > Size (see below)
- > Quantity
- > Right chest lettering (name, call sign) (name only) (call sign only) (other?)
- > # rows for right chest lettering

Size and Price Charts: (checks should be made out to NARS)

MENS SHIRT INFO:

Size	Price
XS (30 – 32)	\$ 37.94
S (34 – 36)	\$ 37.94
M (38 – 40)	\$ 37.94
L (42 – 44)	\$ 37.94
XL (46 – 48)	\$ 37.94
XXL (50 – 52)	\$ 39.57
3XL (54 – 55)	\$ 41.73
4XL (57 – 58)	\$ 43.35

WOMENS SHIRT INFO:

Size	Price
XS (32 1/2 – 34")	\$ 35.99
S (34 1/2 – 35 1/2")	\$ 35.99
M (36 1/2 – 38")	\$ 35.99
L (39 1/2 – 41")	\$ 35.99
XL (43 – 45")	\$ 35.99
1X (47 – 51")	\$ 37.62
2X (52 – 56")	\$ 38.70

Mail to:

- > email: n1ln@arrl.net
- > snail mail:
 Bruce Meier – N1LN
 15283 Runnymede St.
 Conroe, Texas 77384

Your shirts will not be ordered until I have payment in full, so get the money here with the orders. I will be taking orders until May 2. This will guarantee delivery before HamCom and Field Day. I will be sending small quantity orders in before the deadline, so if you want your shirts earlier, get your order and payment in early. Again, checks should be made out to NARS. By the time you read this newsletter the first order has already been sent in. Don't miss this opportunity.

Bruce Meier N1LN

QUA* George Carlson KC5RCC?

This is fun. I'm getting to know some of the best people and they all belong to NARS . . . go figure! My most recent victim was George Carlson, who showed us a little of his knowledge at the February NARS meeting. I'll try to fill in the blanks.



George was born in Chicago, Illinois and after high school joined the Air Force in Communications. He trained at Minot, ND and then served at a boring base in some little island called Johnston Atoll . . . Yes, I know, I know . . . Ask him about it.

While looking for things to stay busy he found an abandoned dark room and since he had received some military training in photography they allowed him to use it. Through this he developed a love for photography and also made some money from the civilian companies needing photographic work after the hurricane, which took down the base antenna. Yes, he did make a few contacts while there, but became frustrated with the pile-ups and it wasn't fun any more. It should be fun, right?

When George went back to civilian life he found a small company called Texas Instruments making calculators and test equipment and worked in their Lubbock office. He began working in their Research and Development Division and kept adding to his technical skills.

He saw a golden opportunity in 1978 and started a company building

after-market computers, but found that he was a few years ahead of his time. He then began to look for other areas of interest and found the Canadian Mining Company and ran their Houston Research and Development Group.

He used his expertise in analog design to engineer equipment to report on various minerals and metals using magnetic and electro-magnetic low frequency waves to measure the complex impedance of earth's resistivity. Flights would be made over potential sites to determine depth and location of major deposits.

But, alas, things change and British Petroleum bought CMC and he moved on to other ventures.

He began a consulting company called Geotech Design Services in 1982. This company is still in existence but rather than concentrating on things underground it is directed above, let's say 200,000 feet. He now provides a service called Differential GPS to Omnistar, Incorporated, using RF to calibrate the locations of GPS satellites for 4 signals on 3 satellites using 22 base stations in North and South America. When I asked if he also provided this service to Europe and Asia Pacific he quietly said, no, but they use equipment I designed.

That statement seems to sum up his career to date; he quietly innovates.

And now on to other stuff . . .

George married Susan in 1978. They met in Lubbock, but didn't start dating until they ran into each other again in Dallas. She is a botanist with a degree from Texas Tech. As you can imagine, they have a beautiful yard and her specialty is roses.

They have two children; a son and daughter. One dog lives with them, a Heinz 57 Corgi/Spitz.

When George was eight he built a one-tube radio for his Merit Badge. That sparked his interest in both electrical engineering and amateur

radio.

He has a complete machine shop in his garage and built a steam engine just for fun. His RF lab is one that most would envy.

He first received a conditional General in 1972 while in High School and he used the school's club call sign WA9LWF. He is now an Extra with his current call sign KC5RCC.

It's interesting to learn the different ways that people find enjoyment in this hobby. George isn't interested in how many contacts he has, so my questions about favorite, most difficult contact didn't apply. He really likes tweaking the equipment, finding little ways to get cleaner signals, home-brew designs, etc. He has contributed several designs to NARS that have been available on the web site.

After hearing his presentation on antennas I was interested to know what he had. He laughed and answered, "Nothing at the moment." He did have a screwdriver antenna on the front bumper of his vehicle, but a car in front stopped faster than he did. Since he doesn't do much DX he really doesn't require a tower.

He enjoys the clean signal he receives from HF mobile when traveling using PSK31, low power digital communications method. He contacted Kobe, Japan from his driveway.

George's family members have always been "fixers". His father was a cabinet-maker and together they built a three-bedroom house, when George was 13. He wired the entire structure.

He started our conversation with the statement, "I believe I'm an obsessive-compulsive designer/builder." Yes, George, you are.

Schalee Lodge, Ham and Sheez QUA reporter

* QUA: "Q" signal meaning "Have you news of . . . ?"

Welcome, Congratulations and Condolences

Welcome new members Victor Canizaro WB5HOW and Rud Merriam K5RUD.

NARS Resource List

General Help:

Bill Stietenroth K5ZTY
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NARS REFLECTOR

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TEXAS QSO PARTY

Coordinator: H.O. Townsend K5CX
281-376-7416 k5cx@arrl.net

REPEATERS

2M: 146.060 / 146.660 (KA5AKG)
70 cm: 449.375 / 444.375 (KA5AKG)

MEETINGS

Monthly General Membership

Third Friday each month at 7:30 PM
Spring Cypress Presbyterian Church, 6000
Spring Cypress Road

Saturday Breakfast

Victor's Restaurant 7:30 AM

Wednesday Lunch 11:30 AM

Various locations (Info on 146.660 and
listed on front page in Important Dates
column)

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Send all articles and materials for the
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Editor: Keith Dutson WD5DXL
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Northwest Amateur Radio Society is a
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